

Little Snake Field Office Resource Management Plan Revision

Oil and Gas Proposed Decisions

The Proposed Plan balances oil and gas development with protecting resources.

An estimated 9.9 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas reserves is estimated to exist within 4.2 million acres of subsurface mineral estate within the Planning Area.

Most of the lands managed by the Little Snake Field Office have high (63 percent) or medium (10 percent) potential for oil and gas.

Approximately 90 percent of the 1.9 million acres of federal minerals covered by this plan are open to oil and gas leasing.

Oil and gas leasing restrictions

Oil and Gas Leasing	Acres*
Open to leasing, subject to standard terms and conditions	168,180
Controlled Surface Use (CSU) stipulations	1,236,810
No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulations	201,890
Timing limitation stipulations	1,189,210
Closed to leasing	242,560

*Stipulations often overlap, so total acreage above is greater than 1.9 million

More than a million acres are currently leased for oil and gas within the Field Office. About 15 percent of these leases currently have some oil and gas development.

Areas closed to mineral leasing (including oil and gas):

- All existing Wilderness Study Areas (78,000 acres) within the Field Office
- Emerald Mountain Special Recreation Area
- Vermillion Basin
- Dinosaur North
- Cold Spring Mountain
- Irish Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- Yampa River: Wild and Scenic River suitable section 3

